Claims

15

20

30

- 1. Method for improved inter-domain routing between packetoriented networks, according to which
- 5 traffic to be transmitted to a destination outside a packetbased network is distributed by one or more edge nodes of the network over a plurality of inter-domain links, the links connecting the packet-oriented network to one or more other packet-oriented networks via which the traffic is forwarded to 10 the destination.
 - 2. Method for determining alternative paths for multipath routing in a packet-oriented network, which method includes the distribution of packets over a plurality of links connecting different packet-oriented networks, wherein
 - a calculation method is used by means of which alternative paths between two nodes of the network can be calculated, and to calculate alternative paths for routing to a destination, the calculation method is used for a node of the network and an edge node of a neighboring network which is reachable via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination and connecting the network to the neighboring network.
- 3. Method for determining paths for multipath routing in a
 25 packet-oriented network, which method includes the distribution
 of packets over a plurality of links connecting different
 packet-oriented networks, wherein
 - to calculate the paths for routing to a destination, edge nodes of other networks which are reachable via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination are combined to form a single virtual node.
 - 4. Method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that

- to calculate the distribution weighting for routing to a destination, edge nodes of other networks which are reachable via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination are combined to form a single virtual node.

5

10

- 5. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that
- for routing to the destination lying outside the network, at least two edge nodes of the packet-oriented network are specified from which the traffic can be forwarded to the destination, and
- for routing within the network for traffic to be transmitted to the destination, splitting among the specified edge nodes is performed.

15

- 6. Method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that
- splitting is performed by distributing the traffic over a plurality of paths within the network.

20

25

- 7. Method as claimed in one of the claims 5 or 6, characterized in that
- splitting is performed by distributing the traffic over different MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) paths leading to the edge nodes.
- 8. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that
- in the event of a disturbance affecting the links

 30 connecting the packet-oriented network to another packetoriented network, e.g. due to failure of a network element
 or overloading, a re-distribution of traffic over the
 links is performed to counteract the disturbance.